HABS No.

CA-2382

Frank Simondi House River Street Historic District 325 W. St. John Street San Jose Santa Clara County California

HARS CAL 43-SANJOS,

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HABS CAL 43-SANJOS, 23-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Frank Simondi House

HABS No. CA-2382

Location:

325 West St. John Street, River Street Historic District

San Jose, California

UTM Coordinates: 10-597680-4132430

Significance:

The Frank Simondi House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth century and early twentieth century working class neighborhood

in San Jose.

Description:

The Frank Simondi House is a one-story wood framed structure that contains a gabled roof with the gable ends facing the street. It features a canted bay window to the left (west) of the facade and an inset half porch to the east. The bay features a large transom window in the center with double hung one over one windows on the sides. It is sided in channel rustic siding, except for the fishscale shingles found in the gable ends. A side turned wooden column supports the porch. The cottage features subdued elements of the Queen Anne style in the use of fishscale shingles, highly decorative barge board, sawtooth brackets and board at the porch, and a patterned railing around the porch.

The plan features a front living room with a bay window, and two bedrooms with a bathroom along the west wall. The dining and kitchen areas line the east wall. A shed addition extends across half of the rear elevation. The long windows on the west and east elevation appear to be replacements.

History:

This cottage is one of several Queen Anne cottages within the district and is a good example of the type. It was built c. 1910 and one of its first occupants was Felix Balleria, a millman for J.H. Nichols, who engaged in millwork and stair building on Orchard Street. In 1915, the property was purchased by Frank Simondi, a baker with Reynard and Rispaud. John J. Simondi, a crane operator, and his wife Ruth occupied the house from 1928 until 1943, when it became a rental

property.

Sources:

California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by

Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.

San Jose City Directories. San Jose 1924 Block Map.

Historian:

Hardlines: Design & Delineation Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland

July - October, 1993

